



**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC
ORGANIZATIONS
(TAIAO)
SUBCHAPTER Q
Soccer Athletic Plan
(November 17, 2017)**

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Except to the extent otherwise provided, the Soccer Plan is governed by and subject to the General Rules of TAIAO.

PART A - Division Alignment

The Rules in Subchapter J – “Classifications and Districts” also apply to this Subchapter Q, Part A.

Section 900 – Biannual Realignment

- A. Prior to the 1st of January of 2018 and each even numbered year thereafter, TAI AO shall review and update Division assignments for all member organizations who were members in good standing in TAI AO as of December 31st.
- B. At the discretion of the soccer committee the realignment can be done annually.
- C. Within 7 calendar days of publication of the Division assignments any member organization may, as provided in Section 252, request reassignment to a larger or smaller classification.
- D. The soccer Committee will respond to all timely filed appeals by the 15th of February.

Section 901 – New Member Organizations

- A. Upon admission to TAI AO, each new member organization shall be assigned to a Division by the soccer Committee.

Section 902 – Division Assignment

- A. If less than 10 teams total participate statewide, they will all play in the same division. If 10 or more teams participate statewide they will be broken into two divisions according to the criteria below.
- B. Division Assignment. If 10 or more teams participate statewide, division assignment will be determined as follows:
 - 1. **Division 1A** – A Roster Count of 17 players or less.
 - 2. **Division 2A** – Either;
 - a. A Roster Count of 18 players or more; or,
 - b. 10 seasons or more combined player experience in Club/Select play.

Example 1: Team A has 15 players; 9 of which have previously or currently play on a select/club soccer team in the offseason, with the team having a combined select/club participation of 10 seasons or more. Team A would be placed in the higher division (Division 2A).

Example 2: Team B has 15 players; none of which have previously participated or currently participate in select/club soccer. Team B would then be placed in the lower division (Division 1A).
- C. 8 v. 8 and 11 v. 11

1. If a team knows before the season that they will not be able to field 11 players consistently, they can opt to play all games 8 v. 8. When they are matched up against a team that typically plays 11 v. 11, both teams will default to playing 8 v. 8.

2. Teams that play 8 v. 8 for their season will always be in division 1A (given their are 10 or more teams statewide as a prerequisite for two divisions to exist).

3. 8 v. 8 games can be played on fields as small as 65 yards long and 45 yards wide, or on fields as large as a full sized field. In the case of teams playing at a neutral site they will play to however the field is chalked, unless both coaches agree to adjust the dimensions through the use of cones.

C. Roster Data.

1. Each March, every member organization shall forward their Roster Data to the TAIIO Soccer Commissioner.

2. Roster Data shall include each member organization's expected high school soccer player count for the upcoming spring season. This headcount shall include all expected soccer players who will participate at the High School level between 14 to 18 years of age as of September 1st of the corresponding previous calendar year.

3. The Roster Data shall include the number of seasons of Club/Select soccer experience of each player.

4. All member organizations shall use the TAIIO Roster Form provided by the Soccer Committee.

5. The Roster Data shall be used to determine the member organization's current Roster Count.

6. Roster Data for any organization applying for membership in TAIIO shall be submitted with its league application.

D. Roster Count. Unless otherwise provided by the Soccer Committee, the most current Roster Data shall be considered the official Roster Count of each member organization.

Section 903 – Organized Practices, Club/Select Teams and School Club Teams

A. Organized Practices defined.

1. Soccer organized practice is interpreted to include organized instruction in soccer formations or individual and/or team skills.

2. The following activities are typical "practice activities" included in organized practices:

- a. Actual on-field practice
- b. Sport-specific skill instruction
- c. Mandatory conditioning

3. The following activities are not considered "practice activities":

- a. Meetings
- b. Film Study
- c. Injury Treatment
- d. Weight Training
- e. Water Breaks
- f. Rest Breaks

g. Voluntary Conditioning (may not be coach directed)

B. When Allowed. Except for player participation on Club/Select teams, organized practices are only allowed during Fall Training and the Regular Season (to include post season playoffs).

C. Club/Select and School Club Teams definitions.

1. A Club/Select Team is defined as a soccer team not sponsored by a member organization which requires tryouts and has no more than 4 players from any one member organization on its team roster. 5
2. A School Club Team is defined as a member organization sponsored soccer team which is comprised of players from one or more member organizations.

D. Club/Select and School Club team participation.

1. Players may participate on Club/Select teams during the Off Season and Summer.
2. At no time may players participate on a School Club team outside of the Regular Season and Fall Training.

Section 904 is reserved for expansion.

Section 905 – Official Rosters and Eligibility (See also Section 236 – Eligibility)

A. Rosters can be adjusted until April 15th at which time the Roster becomes the FINAL and Official Roster for the team for the remainder of the season. Players who are temporarily ineligible for academic or other reasons are to be included on the Final Roster.

B. The Roster information shall include:

1. For each player
 - a. First and Last Name
 - b. Jersey Number
 - c. Grade Classification
 - d. Date of Birth
 - e. Approximate Height
2. For each Coach
 - a. First and Last Name
 - b. Coaching assignment/responsibilities

Section 906 is reserved for expansion.

PART B - Off Season, Fall Training & Summer

The Rules in Subchapter K – “General Plan” also apply to this Subchapter Q, Part B.

Section 907 – Calendar

- A.** The TAI AO calendar for soccer, other than the Regular Season, shall be as follows:
- 1.** Off Season. From the conclusion of the Regular Season (See Section 921 below) through March 1st.
 - 2.** Summer. Beginning June 1st and ending July 31st.

Section 908 – Off Season (See Section 264 of the General Rules)

- A.** Off Season workouts can be held anytime other than the Regular Season.
- B.** Off Season workouts may include accelerated physical education activities, calisthenics, individual skills, strength training and conditioning exercises may be conducted starting no earlier than 6:00 AM and concluding no later than 8:00 PM.
- C.** Off Season workouts shall not:
- 1.** Exceed one continuous period of up to but not to exceed 90 minutes per day; and,
 - 2.** A total of 300 minutes per week.
- D.** Coaches shall make every effort to see that students understand that participation in Off Season activities is strictly voluntary and never required. Participation shall not be a prerequisite for trying out for a soccer team or getting more playing time.

Section 909 – Member Organization Facilities Use (Off Season) See Section 262 of the General Rules

Section 910 – This Section has been left intentionally blank.

Section 911 – Summer Activities (See Section 265 of the General Rules)

- A.** Summer activities shall be an optional activity.
- B.** Summer activities may include accelerated physical education activities, calisthenics, individual skills, strength training and conditioning exercises may be conducted starting no earlier than 6:00 AM and concluding no later than 9:00 PM.
- C.** Summer activities shall not:
- 1.** Exceed 2 hours per day; and,
 - 2.** A total of 8 hours per week.

D. Coaches shall make every effort to see that students understand that participation in Summer activities is strictly voluntary and never required. Participation shall not be a prerequisite for trying out for a soccer team or getting more playing time.

Section 912 – Member Organization Facility Use (Summer) See Section 262 of the General Rules

Sections 913 to 920 are reserved for expansion.

PART C – Regular Season

Section 921 – Calendar

A. The TIAO calendar for soccer for the Regular Season shall begin on March 1 and run through early May. The state playoff tournament will take place on the second Saturday in May.

Section 922 – Practice Schedules

A. Regular Season Practices.

1. Beginning March 1st and continuing until the end of Post Season play, only one organized practice per day may be scheduled.
2. The maximum length of an organized practice shall not exceed three hours.

Section 923 – Pre-Season Scrimmages

- A.** No member organization shall participate in more than 5 scrimmages.
B. No scrimmages are allowed after 1st official game has been played.

Section 924 – Regular Season Matches

A. Match Schedule

1. Regular Season matches may begin as early as the 1st Monday of March.
2. No matches will be scheduled on Sunday.

B. Match Participation Limits.

1. Weekly Limits. No member organization or player may schedule or participate in more than 3 varsity matches in one calendar week (Monday through Saturday).
3. Junior Varsity Participation. Junior Varsity players may be allowed to dress out for varsity matches as long as it does not exceed the weekly 3 match limits allotted to each player.

PART D - Game Administration

The Rules in Subchapter K – “General Plan” also apply to this Subchapter Q, Part D.

Section 925 - Match Rules

- A.** All soccer matches shall be governed by the National Federation of High Schools Soccer Rules.
- B.** Regulation Play – see UIL rules (<https://www.uiltexas.org/soccer/rulesguidelines>)

Section 926 is reserved for expansion.

Section 927 – Pre- and Post- Game Activities

- A.** Prayer Encouraged
 1. At each contest between TIAIO member organizations, pre-game and post-game prayer is encouraged (not required).
 2. When a TIAIO member organization is playing a non TIAIO School, the TIAIO member organization is encouraged to offer to pray before or after the game with the non TIAIO School.

Section 928 – Tickets & Admissions – Regular Season Matches (*See Section 267.D. of the General Rules*)

Section 929 - Match Officials – Regular Season Matches

- A.** All Match officials shall be UIL Certified, TASO Certified or TIAIO approved.
- B.** A minimum of 1 official is required. If officials do not show and the visiting coach elects to play the game, the game can proceed without forfeit.

Sections 930 – 940 are reserved for expansion

PART E - Equipment

Section 941 - Equipment

A. Soccer Balls

1. All varsity game balls shall be NFHS-approved. These balls are subject to the approval of the match official.
2. Home team will provide match balls unless otherwise agreed by both coaches.
3. Home team is not responsible for provision of pre-game warm-up balls or water to visiting teams.

B. Uniforms and Equipment

1. Soccer equipment/uniform requirements are as listed in NFHS Soccer Rules.
2. Opposing team uniforms shall be of contrasting colors. The home team shall wear dark game jerseys and the away team shall wear light game jerseys. This rule may be altered by mutual consent of the competing institutions.

Sections 942 - 944 are reserved for expansion.

PART F - Post Season Play

Section 945 – Calendar

A. The TIAO calendar for soccer for Post Season will be determined by the soccer committee each season before the first regular-season match is played. The State Tournament will be held on the second Saturday in May.

Section 946 – Practice Schedules

A. Post Season Practices.

1. Beginning in the Monday preceding the second Saturday in May and continuing until the end of Post Season play, only one Organized Practice per day may be scheduled.
2. The maximum length of an Organized Practice shall not exceed three hours.

Section 947 - Post Season Play

A. Minimum Match Requirement.

1. Member organizations are required to play a minimum of 6 Regular Season matches to qualify for Post Season play.
2. Players are required to participate in a minimum of 6 Regular Season matches to qualify for Post Season play.

B. Playoff Selection. The Soccer Committee shall be responsible for determination of the member organizations teams participating in the playoffs for each Division.

C. Post Season Playoff Brackets.

1. The soccer Committee shall be responsible for preparation the Playoff bracket.

Section 948 – Team Rosters

A. Team rosters of all playoff-qualifying teams must be submitted to the Soccer Committee at least by the Monday preceding the second Saturday in May to be assured of being included in post season participation. The roster form approved by the TIAO Soccer Committee will be the only form acceptable.

Section 949 - State Tournament

A. State Tournament.

1. The structure of the State Tournament will be determined by the soccer committee.
2. The State Tournament shall be a combined tournament for all member organizations and shall be played at a “central location” designated by TIAO.

3. TAI AO shall manage all game day activities.

B. Passes. All match and season passes issued by any member organization are suspended for the State Tournament.

C. Tickets & Admissions.

1. TAI AO will use its best efforts to choose playoff locations in a manner to appropriately “size” the location to the expected crowd and to create an admission fee that is reasonable.

2. The TAI AO Steering Committee, taking into account the venue, the expense of the event, the impact on expected spectator population and the overall TAI AO organizational welfare, shall determine ticket prices for the State Tournament. This policy is consistent with those procedures used by like organizations and is the guidance that will be applicable to all TAI AO activities.

3. Coaches, players, officials and primary match personnel (team managers, trainers, etc.) are exempt from paying admission.

Sections 950 – 964 are reserved for future expansion.

PART G - Removal from Contest

The Rules in Subchapter I – “Discipline, Protests & Appeals” also apply to this Subchapter Q. Part G.

Section 965 - Removal from Contest

A. Incident Report. Any coach or player ejected from a contest shall:

1. File an Incident Report with the TAIIO Soccer Committee Chairman on the TAIIO authorized form.
 - a. The Incident Report is due by noon the following the second school day following the match.
2. Provide the opposing team’s head coach with a copy of the filed Incident Report.
3. Member organizations who fail to properly report an ejection are subject to further sanctions.

B. Discipline.

1. The TAIIO Soccer Committee Chairman shall be free to determine appropriate discipline in addition to the minimum sanctions listed below.

2. Minimum Sanctions:

a. Players

- i. Any player ejected from a contest shall be suspended from the next scheduled contest as shown on the schedule submitted prior to the season to the TAIIO Office.
- ii. Any player ejected from a contest for a 2nd time within the same season shall be suspended from the next 2 contests as shown on the schedule.
- iii. Any player ejected from a contest for a 3rd time within the same season shall be suspended for the remainder of the season (including post season).

b. Coaches

- i. Any coach ejected from a contest shall receive a private reprimand AND shall be suspended from the next scheduled contest as shown on the schedule submitted prior to the season to the TAIIO Office.
- ii. Any coach ejected from a contest for a 2nd time within the same season shall receive a public reprimand AND shall be suspended from the next 2 contests as shown on the schedule.
- iii. Any coach ejected from a contest for a 3rd time within the same season shall be suspended for the remainder of the season (including post season).

C. If a total of three ejections, coaches and players combined, are received by a member organization during the season, the athletic director and coaching staff of the member organization will be required to meet with the TAIIO soccer Committee Chairman.

Section 966 - Dispute with an Official

A. A coach or player who deliberately comes into physical contact with, or threatens to harm an official shall receive a minimum five (5) game suspension.

Sections 967 – 980 are reserved for expansion

PART H - Coach Training and Certification Concussions

Section 981 - Coach Training & Certification *(See Section 269 of the General Rules).*

Section 982 - Concussions

- A.** In addition to required training, every TAI AO head football coach will follow the UIL mandated protocol related to any student who shows signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with a concussion, which include the following:
- 1.** Immediate removal from the contest or practice
 - 2.** May not return to play on the same day
 - 3.** Shall not return until cleared to play by an appropriate health-care professional
 - 4.** Return to Play protocol shall, at a minimum, include the following:
 - a.** Day 1 – 24 hours symptom free
 - b.** Day 2 – light aerobic exercise; 5 to 10 minutes of light workout
 - c.** Day 3 – Moderate aerobic exercise; 15 -20 minutes of running at moderate intensity
 - d.** Day 4 – Non-contact training drills in full uniform; weight training and resistance training permitted
 - e.** Day 5 – Full contact practice or training
 - f.** Day 6 – Eligible for game play

PART J - Videotaping and Filming

Section 983 – Media, Videotaping and Filming *(See Section 272 of the General Rules).*

Sections 984 – 999 are reserved for expansion